Lucky Marlin Croes will have the best Christmas ever thanks to the Casablanca Casino!

Marlin Croes (pronounced Mar-leen) of Saveneta is one lucky lady. Having just returned to her homeland of Aruba to retire after living in Curaca for thirty-four years, she decided to relax with her husband and spend an evening at the Casablanca Casino in the Westin Aruba Resort.

This was a very smart decision, as it was the first night the casino held a drawing as part of their "Unforgettable Experience on Us" holiday campaign. Casablanca Casino Marketing and Promotions Manager Myandra Croes (no relation to Marlin) explained that for the next five weeks, every Friday night there will be a special drawing at the casino that will offer a prize that will make the 2006 holiday season an unforgettable experience for some lucky winners. This past Friday, the grand prize was a "Holiday Dinner on Us" for the winner and twenty-nine guests in the Buena Vista Room of the Westin Aruba Resort. This all-inclusive dinner will also offer some after dining entertainment for each guest in the form of a \$25 certificate for the casino.

To qualify to win one of the great prizes that will be raffled off every Friday evening until December 22, individuals over eighteen need only register with the Casablanca Casino and become a member of their Player's Club. While spending time at the casino, the membership card is inserted into the gaming machines, or casino staff will make rounds of the gaming tables hourly and register the numbers on the cards. Each hour a raffle ticket will be inserted in the drum for all those that are in the casino. The more one plays, the better chance they have to win a shopping spree at local stores worth \$500, or Dinner and Show at the Cabaret Royal for twelve, plus a \$50 casino certificate for each. The final prize is tickets to New Year's Celebration for six at the gala happening in the Westin Aruba Ballroom, including their transportation to and from the festivities by limousine and \$100 casino certificate for each guest. Other fabulous prizes that will make it an unforgettable holiday have yet to be announced.

On Friday, not only Marlin, who had just registered as a member and put her ticket in the drum less than an hour before, went home a winner. Beautiful holiday baskets were awarded to second and third place winners Nathalie Starkle and Edith Tromp. Miss World Aruba, Shanandoa Wijshijer, did the honors of pulling the names from the barrel, and local media personality Ruben Garcia did a fine job of dragging out the suspense before a thrilled Marlin came to the stage to claim her prize. She declared that this could not make a more perfect Christmas, as it will also be a welcoming home party for her return to the island, and even as she filled out her raffle ticket, "she was certain she would win tonight." Looks like Marlin is a good person to consult for lottery numbers! THE NEWS extends congratulations to all the winners and wishes for a wonderful holiday season courtesy of the Casablanca Casino!